

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, 13 and 19, and cancel claim 2 without prejudice, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (**Currently Amended**) An endcap for use on an actuator arm carrying a single head gimbal assembly, the endcap comprising:

a body of the endcap connected to the actuator arm; and

a shielding feature extending from the body in a cantilevered configuration for reducing windage excitation of the head gimbal assembly.

2. (**Canceled**)

3. (**Original**) The endcap of claim 2, wherein the shielding feature includes a balancing portion and a shielding portion.

4. (**Previously Presented**) The endcap of claim 3 wherein the shielding feature is not connected to the actuator arm.

5. (**Previously Presented**) The endcap of claim 3 wherein the balancing portion is shaped so the endcap is symmetric with respect to the shielding portion and the balancing portion.

6. (**Original**) The endcap of claim 1, wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert an airflow proximate to a portion of the head gimbal assembly that experiences windage excitation.

7. (**Previously Presented**) The endcap of claim 6 wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert airflow away from a windward side of the head gimbal assembly.

8. **(Original)** The endcap of claim 1 wherein the head gimbal assembly further comprises a load beam, a gimbal, a transducing head, and a flexible interconnect circuit, and wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert an airflow proximate to a critical portion of the flexible interconnect circuit.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 1 disposed in relation to an X, Y and Z coordinate system, wherein an airflow in a substantially Z direction causes excitation of the head gimbal assembly, the shielding feature having a shape defined in a substantially X-Y plane for controlling the airflow, wherein the substantially X-Y plane is defined substantially parallel to the actuator arm.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 1 disposed in relation to an X, Y and Z coordinate system, wherein an airflow in a substantially Y direction causes excitation of the head gimbal assembly, the shielding feature having a shape defined in a substantially X-Z plane for controlling the airflow, wherein the substantially X-Z plane is defined substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the actuator arm.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A head actuation system comprising:

an actuator arm;

a head gimbal assembly for carrying a transducing head, the head gimbal assembly connected to a first side of the actuator arm; and

a shield having a first portion attached to the actuator arm and a second cantilevered portion for reducing airflow excitation of the head gimbal assembly, wherein the shield is attached to a second side of the actuator arm that is opposite the first side of the actuator arm.

12. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 11 wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises:

a baseplate functioning as the shield, the baseplate having a body portion attached to the actuator arm and a shielding portion for reducing airflow excitation of the head gimbal assembly;

a load beam, wherein the baseplate is attached to a first end of the load beam;

a flexible interconnect circuit adjacent to the load beam and electrically connected to the transducing head;

a gimbal attached to a second end of the load beam; and

a slider supported by the gimbal, the slider disposed to support the transducing head.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The head actuation system of claim 11 wherein the shield comprises an endcap having a body that comprises the first portion of the shield and a symmetrical protrusion from the body that comprises the second portion of the shield.

14. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 13 wherein the protrusion is T-shaped.

15. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 11 wherein the shield comprises an endcap having a body and a plurality of protrusions from the body.

16. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 15 wherein the endcap is symmetrical with respect to an axis extending along a center length of the load beam.

17. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 16 wherein the protrusions form substantially a "C" shape.

18. **(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 17 wherein each protrusion has a first portion and a distal portion, the first portion defines a plane, and the distal portion is non-planar with the first portion.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A shielded head actuation system comprising:

- a rotatable actuator arm;
- a head gimbal assembly attached to a first side of the actuator arm;
- a rotatable magnetic disc; and
- an endcap comprising a body attached to the actuator arm and a symmetrically balanced shape feature, wherein the body of the endcap is attached to a second side of the actuator arm opposite the head gimbal assembly such that the shape feature is positioned adjacent to the head gimbal assembly in a cantilevered configuration to reduce airflow excitation of the head gimbal assembly.

20. **(Original)** The shielded head actuation system of claim 19 wherein the symmetrically balanced shape feature is disposed proximate to an excitable portion of the head gimbal assembly to control excitation of the head gimbal assembly caused by airflow generated by rotating the magnetic disc.